Episode 5: THE FAILURE OF IDOL WORSHIP
THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF PEOPLE THESE DAYS IDENTIFYING HONDO MOYURU AS SHIMAMOTO, AND THAT'S GOT TO STOP.
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR! THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION THAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE REAL SHIMAMOTO.

IDOLS!

Magazines in a convenience store -> 15%

Introduced by an assistant ->60%

In a record store ->25%

On TV -> 0%

HOW DO THEY DISCOVER THEM ?

3

MANGA ARTISTS FALL IN LOVE WITH TOOLS WITH PURE MOTIVES (OR SO THEY THINK)!!

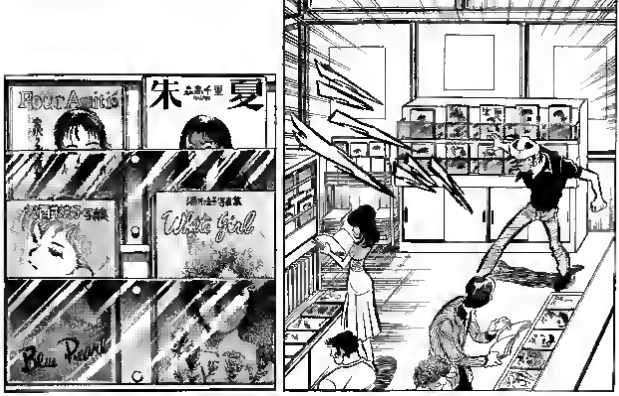
ULTRA
7
ELEVEN
HONOO MOYURU TRE MANGA ARTIST.
RE'S JUST YOUR OROINARY MANGA ARTIST WITR FIVE MONTHLY SERIES RUNNING AT ONGE.

DRAWN THIS TYPE OF WOMAN BEFORE!!
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE NEVER...
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BLAZE A NEW TRAIL!
I WANT TO MAKE A CHARACTER BASED ON THIS WOMAN!

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
THE MANGA ARTIST IS ON FIRE!
THE IMAGE ARISES BASED ON JUST A SINGLE PHOTOGRAPH, AND THE CHARACTER IS COMPLETE.

AND SO...

YES?
MR. KAWANAKAJIMA!!
Book Camera


Four Artists
朱夏
White Girl
Blue Period

PLEASE BUY THESE FOR ME AS RESOURCES!!
PL...
P-

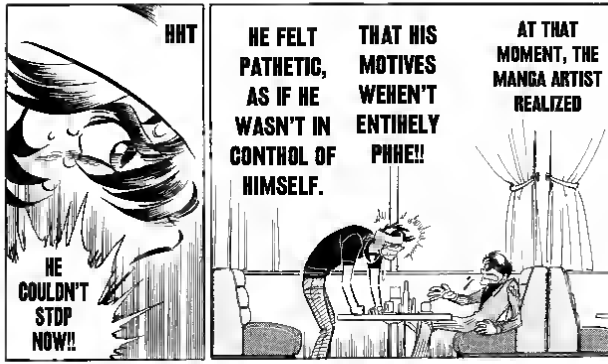
SO HE FORCES THE SHAME ANO FINANCIAL BUROEN ON HIS EOITOR!!
THE MANGA ARTIST IS TOO ASHAMEO TO BUY AN IOOL'S PHOTO-BOOK HIMSELF,

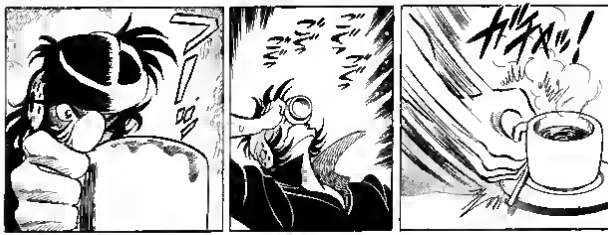
"OH, THANK YOU," HE SAYS, BUT HIS HEART IS ROSIER THAN EVER!
OH, THANK YOU.
HERE YOU GO.
I'D LIKE A RECEIPT, PLEASE.
YES, SIR.
AND SO, THE MANGA ARTIST'S WORKPLACE BECOMES INEVITABLY LINED WITH IDOLS' PHOTO-BOOKS, CDS, DVDS, AND VHS!
HE PUTS UP POSTERS IN HIS WORKPLACE AND PRIVATE ROOM.
THIS IS ABOUT WHERE HIS MOTIVES START TO GET A LITTLE LESS PURE!
THE MANGA ARTIST'S PURE MOTIVES ARE BURNING!
GOOD!

AND FINALLY...

I WANT TO MEET HER!
HIS DESIRE ESCALATES!

URK...
Y, YOU WANT TO MEET HER?
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT TO MEET HER FOR?
IF I DON'T MEET MORIKATA NISATO IN PERSON...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DRAW ANYMORE!
.....
.....

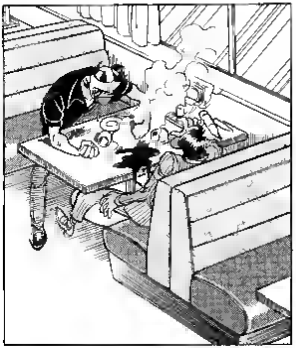

HHT
HE COULDN'T STOP NOW!!
HE FELT PATHETIC, AS IF HE WASN'T IN CONTHOL OF HIMSELF.
THAT HIS MOTIVES WEHEN'T ENTIHELY PHHE!!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE MANGA ARTIST REALIZED



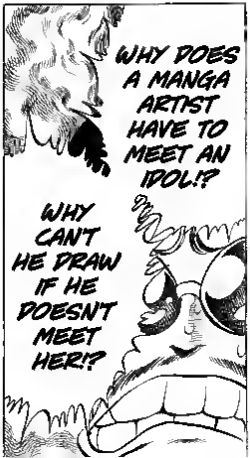
WHAT HAD HE SPENT ALL THIS MONEY ON MORIKATA NISATO FOR!? (IT WAS FOR MANGA AT FIRST)
HE'S COME TOO FAR.
WHY DID HE WANT TO MEET HER? THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS!!

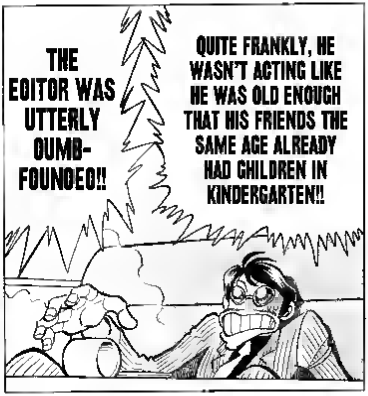
IF I DON'T MEET HER...
I'LL NEVER DRAW AGAIN !!

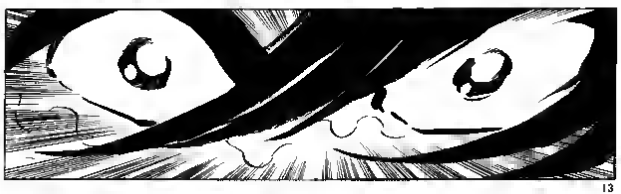
AT FIRST GLANCE, HE SEEMED TO BE A MAN WHO LOVED THE ART OF MANGA, NEVER COMPROMISED, AND NEVER STOPPED PURSUING WHAT HE WANTED.



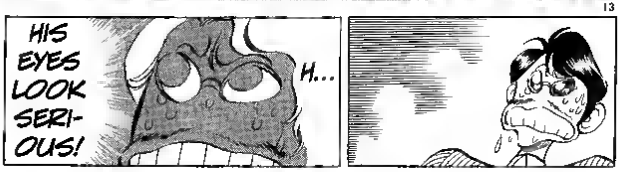
HOWEVER...




THE EDITOR WAS UTTERLY DUMB-FOUNDED!!
QUITE FRANKLY, HE WASN'T ACTING LIKE HE WAS OLD ENOUGH THAT HIS FRIENDS THE SAME AGE ALREADY HAD CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN!!

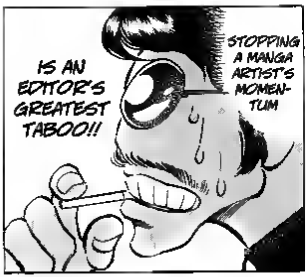


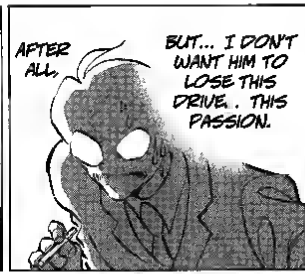
13



IF HE DOESN'T MEET THE IDOL,

HE REALLY WILL... NEVER DRAW AGAIN!!





BUT... I'M A PROFESSIONAL EDITOR!!

ANY OLD AMATEUR OR OFFICE LADY WHO JUST WANTS A TRANSFER CAN SAY THAT...!!

"THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL EVER MEET HER."

"I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT."

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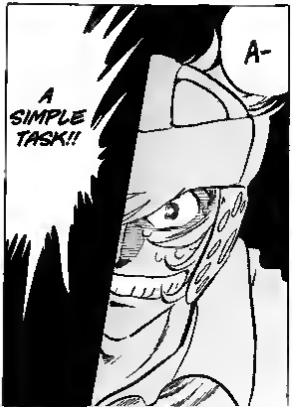
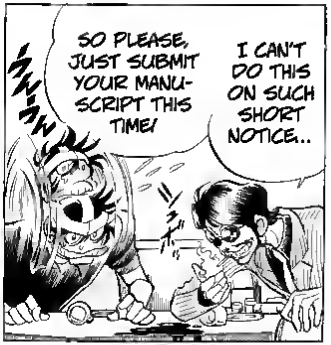
I'LL LET YOU MEET HER!

HOW-EVER...

Y...
YOU CAN DO THAT!?

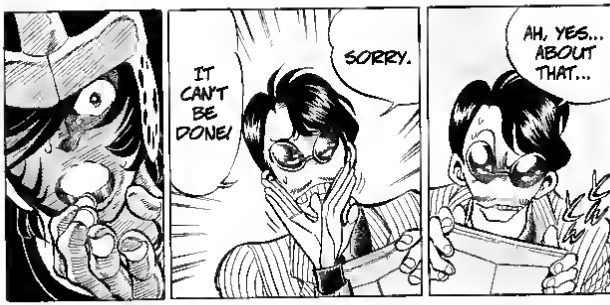

A-
A SIMPLE TASK!!


I CAN'T DO THIS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE..
SO PLEASE, JUST SUBMIT YOUR MANU-SCRIPT THIS TIME!
ｼｭﾝ

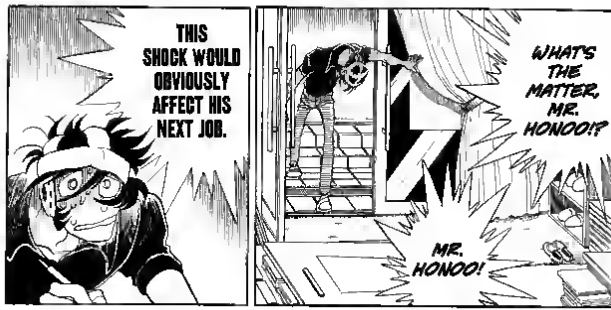
ARRRRGGGGHHHHHHH!

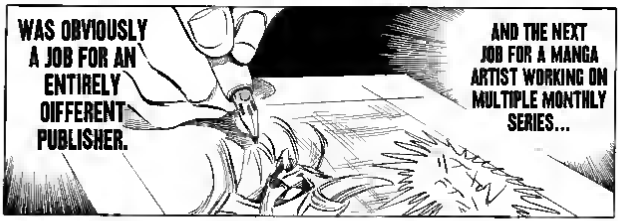
PHEWWWW...

I'VE FINISHED 32 PAGES, MR. KAWA-NAKAJIMA !!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YEP, LOOKS GOOD!
SO WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THING,
MR. KAWA-NAKA-JIMA!?
S...


AH, YES... ABOUT THAT...
SORRY.
IT CAN'T BE DONE!

ぐらり
WELL, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!


THIS SHOCK WOULD OBVIOUSLY AFFECT HIS NEXT JOB.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. HONOO!?
MR. HONOO!


WAS OBVIOUSLY A JOB FOR AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PUBLISHER.
AND THE NEXT JOB FOR A MANGA ARTIST WORKING ON MULTIPLE MONTHLY SERIES...

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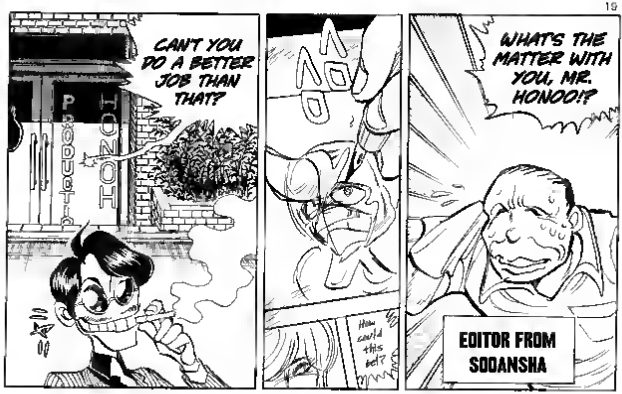
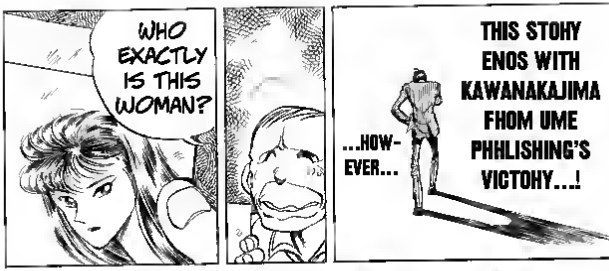

CAN'T YOU DO A BETTER JOB THAN THAT?
HONOO
How could this be?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MR. HONOO!?
EDITOR FROM SODANSHA


WHO EXACTLY IS THIS WOMAN?
THIS STOHY ENOS WITH KAWANAKAJIMA FHOM UME PHHLISHING'S VICTOHY...!
...HOW-EVER...

SHE'S A NEW CHARAC-TER!!

ANO TONIGHT, THE MANGA AHTIST CONTINUES TO ORAW MANGA AS HE OHEAMS!
IF UME PUHLISHING WOULON'T LET HIM MEET HEH, HE'O TRY AGAIN WITH SOOANSHA!!
TRE MANGA ARTIST HAO STILL NOT WOKEN UP TO REALITY.
NOHI-PIE

BURNING PEN

CHAPTER 5 PRESENTED BY HOKUTO NO GUN

STORY AND ART BY: KAZUHIKO [illegible]
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: SYSTEMA [illegible]
EDITING AND PROOFREADING BY [illegible]